

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8 are pending. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2 and 5 are currently canceled. No claims have been withdrawn from consideration or added.

Applicant's Invention is Unobvious

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claims 2 and 5 therein. This amendment is made without prejudice to expedite prosecution.

The amendment renders moot each of the rejections, i.e., of claims 1, 7, and 8 over Hase et al. in view of Curzon et al., of claims 2-4 over Hase et al. in view of Curzon et al. and Guillet, and of claims 1, 5, and 6 over Hase et al. in view of Beck.

It is noted that although the first and third rejections were each presented as rejections under 35 USC §102(b) that they are each believed to have been intended to be rejections under 35 USC §103(b).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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